REMARKS

This application contains claims 1, 4-19 and 22-37. Claims 1, 12, 19, 35 and 37 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiners Schlaifer and Paula for the courtesy of an interview with Applicant's representative, Sanford T. Colb (Reg. No. 26,856), held in the USPTO on June 15, 2005. At the interview, Mr. Colb presented a draft amendment to claims 1 and 12 and argued the patentability of the claims over the cited art. The Examiner agreed to consider the amendment upon formal submission, notwithstanding the Final Rejection of the present claims, without a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, 11, 19, 20, 22-25, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lopresti et al. (U.S. Patent 5,625,721) in view of Motoiwa (U.S. Patent 6,343,149) and further in view of Walker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,381,582). Independent claims 1, 19 and 35 have been amended in order to clarify the distinction of the present invention over the cited references.

Lopresti describes the use of a certificate, which is calculated on the text of a document to be reproduced, and which can be used to detect an error in the reproduced document (abstract). In the Background of the Invention, Lopresti describes error detection based on dictionary lookup, but explicitly teaches against this method of verifying OCR results (col. 2, lines 45-58).

Motoiwa describes a document character reading system, in which a local station and a central station both perform OCR on the same image data, using different recognition methods. A decision component decides whether the character data recognized by the local and central stations match and, if so, output the data as correct. Otherwise, a correction component is used to correct the data (abstract).

Walker describes a system for processing payments for goods purchased from a remote seller, such as a catalog marketer (abstract). In one embodiment, cited by the Examiner (col. 12, lines 20-50), Walker describes a merchant clearing process in which a remote processor system receives a merchant code, identifying

the remote seller, and an order code from a local POS system. The remote processor transmits the order code to the remote seller. The remote seller identifies the order record based on the order code and retrieves the order price (144) from the appropriate field in the order database (Fig. 4B). This field contains a record of the actual price of the goods that the buyer has purchased.

Claim 1 recites a method for document processing, in which images of document fields received over a network from a client are processed to code information contained in the fields. Directory look-up is used to check whether the information is coded correctly. The checked, coded information is returned to the client, from whom payment is received according to the number of fields that were processed. The claim has been amended to clarify that this payment is received from the client in exchange for coding and checking the information, based upon a price per field processed. The claim states clearly, in other words, that the client pays specifically for the service of coding and checking information, according to the number of fields that were coded and checked.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner stated (page 4 in the Official Action) that Walker discloses a database having a set price per field, and the total number of fields determines the total price. As noted above, however, Walker's prices refer to the price of goods in a remote sales record. The price associated with each field is the price of an item of goods appearing in an order record, which is used in a clearing process between a catalog merchant who has sold the goods and a customer who has bought them. This price is not set, but rather varies from record to record, as can be seen in Walker's Fig. 4B. The total price is determined not by the number of fields, but rather by the numbers appearing in the fields. Furthermore, Walker makes no suggestion of receiving payment in exchange for coding and checking the information according to the number of the fields processed, as required by amended claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended is patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 1, dependent claims 4-7, 10 and 11 are also believed to be patentable.

Independent claim 19 recites apparatus that operates on principles similar to the method of claim 1. This claim has been amended in like fashion to claim 1, and is thus believed to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons stated above. In view of the patentability of claim 19, dependent claims 20, 22-25, 28 and 29 are also believed to be patentable.

Claims 8, 9, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lopresti in view of Motoiwa and Walker and further in view of Bradford (U.S. Patent 5,805,747) or Medina (U.S. Patent 5,889,897). In view of the patentability of amended claims 1 and 19, as explained above, dependent claims 8, 9, 26 and 27 are also believed to be patentable.

Claims 12-18 and 30-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lopresti in view of Motoiwa and Walker and further in view of Brown (U.S. Patent 6,498,612). Applicant has amended claims 12, 30, 35 and 37 in order to clarify the distinction of the present invention over the cited art.

Brown describes a user interface architecture that operates by storing user interface information in a display database, preferably as part of a directory services database (abstract). The Examiner cited a passage in Brown that describes how directory information is provided on a network by a directory service. According to Brown, a directory service is like a phone directory, which is used to find information in a distributed computing environment (col. 6, lines 38-43).

Independent claim 12 recites a method for processing forms including data in a predefined domain. The method uses a directory that is defined for the domain by selecting data specific to the domain from one or more general databases. In remarks that accompanied the previous amendment in this case, Applicant pointed out that there is no mention or suggestion in Brown of selecting data specific to a given domain from one or more general databases, as required by claim 12. In response to this argument, the Examiner maintained in the present Official Action that "whenever specific information is retrieved from a database, it forms a unique subdomain," and on this basis, Brown could be taken to disclose the step of "defining a directory of data relating to the predefined domain" recited in claim 12.

Applicant has therefore amended claim 12 to clarify that the directory is defined in advance of reading out contents of the forms for processing. This sequence of actions is made clear on page 3, second paragraph, in the present patent application, and in the subsequent detailed description on pages 11 and 12. Brown, on the other hand, retrieves information from the general directory only in response to specific queries, and not in advance of such queries. Therefore, Brown cannot be taken to teach or suggest the limitation of defining a domain-specific directory in advance by selection from a general database.

Thus, claim 12 as amended is believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 12, dependent claims 13-18 are also believed to be patentable.

Independent claims 30 and 37, respectively, recite apparatus and a computer software product that operate on principles similar to the method of claim 12. These claims have been amended in like manner to claim 12 and are thus believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. In view of the patentability of claim 30, dependent claims 31-34 are believed to be patentable, as well.

Claim 35 recites a computer software product that operates on principles similar to the method of claim 1. This claim was rejected on rationale similar to the grounds of rejection of claim 1, and has been amended in like manner to the amendment of claim 1. Therefore, claim 35 is believed to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons stated above in reference to amended claim 1. In view of the patentability of claim 35, claim 36, which depends from claim 35, is also believed to be patentable.

Applicant has studied the additional reference made of record by the Examiner, and believes the claims currently pending in the present patent application to be patentable over this additional reference, whether the reference is taken individually or in any combination.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the

claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

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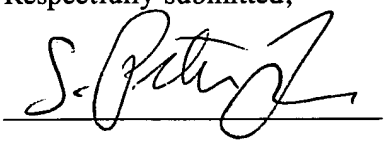
Respectfully submitted,



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